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The author is conscious of the extremes between extravagance of praise and severity of condemnation in the interpretations of Isabella, but this book is neither extravagant nor severe. Isabella is presented as having an "independent and clear-sighted mind"; as an able politician capable of taking care of herself in the midst of court intrigues; as a ruler of firm justice tempered on occasion not so much by mercy as by expediency; as a wife and mother deserving of "unstinted admiration". Her "bigotry" in religion is explained as an "inheritance" shared in common with "the greater part of her race", yet the "relentless cruelty" of her persecutions is viewed with "sick disgust". Isabella rendered great service in restoring the crown as a "symbol of national justice" and in securing domestic peace.

In view of the works of Prescott and Irving, to attempt a book of a semi-popular character was a bold undertaking. The result is a clearly and interestingly written volume which justifies a worthy position in the series in which it appears. Yet it may be questioned if it "will take the place" of Prescott's *History of the Reign of Ferdinand and Isabella*. This work adds little if anything in the way of information; and, although Altamira and Lafuente are included in the brief bibliographical list, little use was made in the main body of the book of any authority which had not been employed by Prescott. The present work most frequently quotes from the writings of Hernando del Pulgar, Jerónimo Zurita, Andrés Bernaldez, Marineo Siculo, and Sabatini, with scattered excerpts from Peter Martyr. Excepting Sabatini, of course, these are writers constantly referred to by Prescott in his heavily documented history.

WILLIAM WHATLEY PIERSON, JR.

A Syllabus of Hispanic-American History. By WILLIAM WHATLEY PIERSON, JR., PH.D., Professor of History in the University of North Carolina. Third edition. Revised and reprinted. (University of North Carolina: 1920. Pp. 44. \$0.50.)

This *Syllabus*, the preface states, "is designed primarily for the use of students of the University of North Carolina as a guide to the introductory study of Hispanic-American history". The aim of the author is to stress economic and institutional history, rather than political, which can best be sacrificed when the limitations of time must receive consideration. The outline consists of an introduction bearing upon the European background and thirteen detailed chapters, the first

entitled "The Period of Discovery," and the last, "Contemporary History, Problems, and Achievements of Hispanic America". A goodly number of bibliographical references, including works in Spanish and French, as well as in English, accompany the various topics. Careful scholarship and regard for sound pedagogical principles characterize the work. Without doubt, Professor Pierson has performed a service of more than local character; for men and women who have had no formal training are constantly being called upon to teach courses in the Hispanic American field. To them the *Syllabus* should prove a special boon, but it will not be without interest to high school teachers who are anxious to introduce our neighbors to the south in connection with the course in United States history.

In view of such large opportunity for usefulness, it seems legitimate to call attention to a few respects in which, in the opinion of the reviewer, the *Syllabus* might be improved. Judging from the briefest possible mention given to the Aztecs and Incas (p. 14), the author feels that they deserve but slight attention in an introductory course. This is a mistake, for a study of these peoples not only throws valuable light upon the cultural possibilities of their descendents, but appears absolutely essential to an understanding of political, economic, religious, and moral conditions in present-day Hispanic America. Chapter four, dealing with geography and resources, seems out of place in its position immediately preceding the chapter on "The Struggle for Independence". Surely the logical position for this is the first part of chapter one, where it would furnish the needed setting for the historical narrative which follows. Some of the details listed for economic history might be omitted in order to secure time for more attention to the political history of the leading nations, such as the A. B. C. republics; for a year's course in Hispanic American history should give sufficient stress to the leading political figures to make these stand out in the minds of the students as real personalities; and unless more attention is given to the biographical thread than is indicated in the *Syllabus*, this end will not be accomplished.

To make the *Syllabus* of more general value, it would also be desirable to add more of the standard works in Spanish, such as Pelliza's *Historia Argentina* and Galdames's *Historia de Chile*, or to substitute them for some of the more inferior volumes of the South American series. Dr. Oliviera Lima's very helpful analysis of *The Evolution of Brazil compared with that of Spanish and Anglo-Saxon America* (Stanford University Press) should be given a place. And *Inter-America*,

the *Pan-American Magazine*, the *Mexican Review*, *Cuba Contemporánea*, and other periodicals of similar standing, which contain much valuable matter, should be included.

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MARY WILHELMINE WILLIAMS.

Paraguay. A Commercial Handbook. By WILLIAM LYTLE SCHURZ. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Special Agents Series, No. 199. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1920. Pp. 195. Folding map. Paper. 40 cents.)

No other book equally enlightening and accurate concerning present-day Paraguay has yet appeared. Its author is a trained historical worker who was given absence from his post in the historical faculty of the University of Michigan where he taught Hispanic American history, in order that he might visit Paraguay as trade commissioner for the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. As the title of Dr. Schurz's work indicates, the volume is intended primarily for the use of North Americans from the United States who are interested in foreign trade. It contains, however, a wealth of information that is of importance in the classroom to those not only interested in the trade of South America but as well to students of the history of the southern continent, for it presents the necessary background that can be obtained nowhere else in such convenient form.

The introduction gives brief data relative to geography, climate, history, government, religion, education, and population. Other main topics discussed are the following: cities and towns; agriculture; stockraising; meatpacking; forest industries; mineral resources; manufactures; transportation and communication; labor; immigration, colonization, and land; foreign trade; investments; banks and banking; money and exchange; and public finances. The result is an excellent social and economic study that should give the volume a place on the shelves of every student of Hispanic American history. The author personally visited all parts of the country except those parts of the Chaco district that have not yet been visited by any white man so far as known. The large folding map is credited to Cleto Romero, former director of the National Department of Engineers in Paraguay, but it contains various emendations and additions by Dr. Schurz. This map shows the extreme claims of Paraguay to the mysterious and largely unknown Chaco district.